



# NARATHIWAT

- ✦ **Sightseeing places at Southern City**
- ✦ **The Place of Batik Clothes**
- ✦ **Local stage plays and delightful color of traditional entertainment**
- ✦ **The magnificent immense golden leaves forest of Budo-Sungai Pa Di**





An Image of sailboat with full force sail

Previously, the symbol of this province was the Para rubber tree and the person tapping of Para rubber, which literally means an occupation of the Narathiwat people at the rubber tree plantation, wherein rubber is exported to various countries, soon after it was change to Sailboat with full force sail.

*The Thaksin Palace, loving religious people, enchanting landscape, impressive Pa Cho, vast area of gold mine, sweet smelling Longkong.*

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Narathiwat Province, in earlier time, was only a mere fishing village, located at the mouth of Bangnara River adjacent to the coastal of the Gulf of Thailand. During the period of King Rama I, His Majesty King Phra Buddha Yodfa Chulaloke the Great, Bangnara village was under and governed by Saiburi City, thereafter it was transferred under the rule of Rangae City, which was one of the districts of Pattani. During the period of 1812, the Pattani Region was plundered by numerous bandits, beyond Phya Pattani could handle, as a result, he requested assistance from Phya Songkhla who could successfully eradicate these bandits and simultaneously set-up the policy of guidelines to separate the Pattani Region into seven (7) main cities including Pattani City, Nong Chik City, Yala City, Raman City, Rangae City, Sai Buri City and Yaring City.

During the time of His Majesty King Nang Klao, Rama III, a rebellion rise with the collaboration between Phya Pattani, Phya Nong Chik, Phya Yala, and Phya Rangae to the four (4) leading southern cities. Phya Songkhla, subsequently brought all the armed forces under the command of Phya Yaring to confront and attack until it succeeded. Afterwards, Phya Yaring was nominated to administer of Rangae City replacing Phya Rangae who run away, then moved the government office from Rangae village to be relocated at Tambon Tonyongmut, which nowadays called Rangae District.

In the year of 1906, the period of His Majesty King Chulalongkorn (Phra Chulachom Klao Chaoyuhua), Rama V, who canceled the traditional government, while at that time Bangnara village progressed and developed to a big community and became a central city for commerce and land & sea trade. In order to maintain good governance and expand the city, on the 27th of July in the same year, a royal decree was proclaimed to divide the seven (7) main cities out of Montol Tesapibal (the lieutenant governor of a region), and name it as "Montol Pattani (Pattani Region)". At this time, Rangae government office was move to be located at Manalo village.

In the year of 1915, the period of His Majesty King Mongkut, Rama IV, embark on a journey to the Southern Precincts. On the 10th of June, he traveled to Bangnara village and gave the name **Narathiwat** which means the residence of good people. Soon after, in the year of 1922 there was considerable development on the countryside ruling government and replaced the name the city to be a "Province". Narathiwat City, therefore, was changed to be Narathiwat Province ever since.

## Geography

Narathiwat is the southernmost city of Thailand. It is located on the headland of the Melayu Peninsula, which extend beyond into the Indochina Peninsula. The complex mountainous topography was covered by vast forest around two thirds (2/3) of the whole area. These countless ranges of mountains, which consequential to the movement of the earth surface layer in the beginning of the Sinozoic era, are extended along to the north-south line, as well as the Sangalakiri mountain ranges that stretches along from Satol province to the border of Thailand and Malaysia and resembles as the backbone of the peninsula. Additionally, there are sizeable and visible lines marked of movement. Most of the areas found therefore are very much distinctive type amongst the high and low-lying areas.

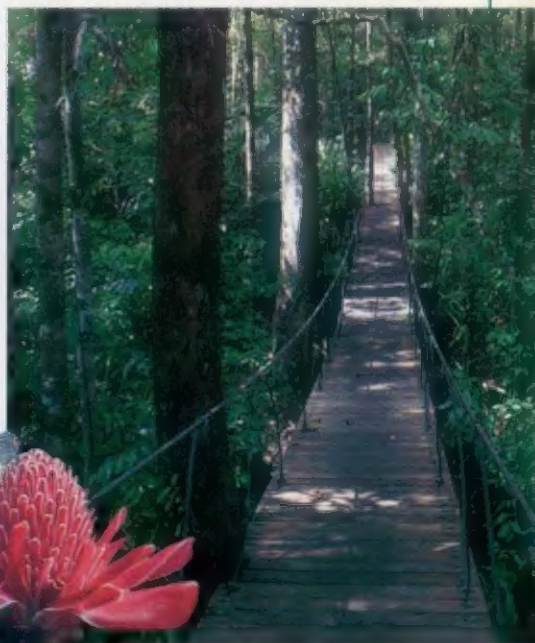
The landscape of the peninsula rise higher on the West side and sloping down to the low land on the East side reaching the sea of the Gulf of Thailand. These ranges of mountains created four-river line resources, which are Bangnara River, Sai Buri River, Tak Bai River and Sungai-Kolok River. They flowed from the west to the plain on the east and goes down to the sea of the Gulf of Thailand. The area on the mouth of the river and coastline appears a deposits of alluvium sedimentation from the Kwaternari era that was blown by the

flow of the water and piles up constantly, thus, later develop into a plain area lying parallel along the sea that continuing densely. Some of it turns to be the Mangrove forest and Mangrove beach, while later some of the area had changed to be a new land with similarity to the land on the area of Chao Phraya River, which continually protrudes long to the sea.

Since it is the last city in the south of Thailand, an area where monsoon, usually occurs from the cost of Andaman Sea and the Gulf of Thailand throughout the year. Therefore, there is only a summer season and rainy season, wherein the weather is warmer during summer season; while on rainy season would be the continuous heavy rains from the month of October to January. The average temperature, thus, is only 27<sup>oo</sup> Centigrade high.



▲ A various plants in the Sirindhorn Peat Swamp Forest



▲ Nature Study Trail

## Imperative Places of the Local History and Arts

### Ban Kok It Ancient City Ban Kok

It located 42 kilometers further from the city. The visitors should turn right and go straight and follow the Highway No. 4084 of the Narathiwat Sungai-Kolok around 4 Kilometers, then turn right and go straight for another five (5) kilometers. The entire area is approximately 0.4 acres and the element found in there is characterized as the heap of soil, wherein folks describe it "li Kong or the heap of bricks" since there are numerous remains of bricks such as the huge heap of rock and the Ancient China Crockery all over the place.

The Historical Record identified it from the past 800 years ago; this Itkong place was a depot for merchandises delivering Argosy of goods to Indonesia. Simultaneously, it was also the place where the Royal Prince Buddha Dhotama settled or known amongst the local people as Toe Chaidam, who is a descendent of Mon-Thai yai and Thailue race. Nowadays, most people believed that underneath the ground lays various valuable things.

### Wat Cholthara

**Singhe** Turn left at the junction of Tak Bai market-place then head-off straight for around 100 meters, there is a temple called "Wat Pitak PandinThai (means protect Thailand)". It was built around the year of 1860, the later part during the time of the King Rama IV, which is the time when Tak Bai was under and governed by Kelantan State. At that time, Phra Khru Opas Puthakun (Puth) requested an area to build this temple from the Sultan, who was the governor of Kelantan State on the earlier period of Chakri Dynasty. During the period of King Rama V, England had superior power on the southern area of Thailand,

consequently re-establishing claims of the boundary location and encroached on the land of Thailand on the year of 1909. However, Thai had referred to the existing community of local (Thai) people whose residing at Cholthara Singhe Temple. Therefore, England handed over this area back to Thailand; subsequently Ko-lok River was used as the boundary separating the land.

The prominent unique art of this Temple is the Abode of a Buddhist Priest made from wood with a Melayu shape that was built by Phra Khru Pinit Samanakarn on the year of 1920. Later on, the Department of Religious Affairs restored to its original condition on the year of 1986. The designs were stunning from the paintings on the frontage wall to the stairs and ceiling, the summit of abode was decorated by the fretwork, while on the side catches the eyes with plenty of small windowpane all around. The other arts are the old wood abode beside the river, the Uposatha Hall (consecrated assembly hall) with beautiful murals inside. At the back of the temple, there is an old monastery, inside were decorated by molded sculpture images of Phra Narain (with four-hands), crockery from the Song Dynasty and the enshrined Sleeping Buddha (Seyya kappabudd hapatima). Also, it is in the temple yard where the monument of Phra Khru Opas Puthakun, a notable abbot who established the Cholthara Singhe temple.



**Taba Market, Tak Bai Border Checkpoint** It is the business area of various people from the east border cities. Thailand and Kelantan a state of Malaysia was divided by Sungai-Kolok River. This is the place of contact for commercial trading



▲ Telok Manoh Mosque

and the place to make negotiation for the tourists who needs to travel to Malaysia. On Thailand side, the Custom Post and retail commodities are located. While on the Malaysian side is a market that sells tax-free goods that mostly are foodstuffs. Moreover, there are also lots of interesting goods such as clothes and electrical equipments. Travelling 20 kilometers further is Kota Bharu City, where the fascinating Sultan Palace is located.

Travelling and crossing to Malaysia should strictly follow the laws of the country, smuggling any fire arms carries severe capital punishment. The tourists should present passport or temporary entry permit to Tak Bai Immigration Check point, then crossing 10 minutes ride on a ferryboat. The Immigration Checkpoint provides the service from 5:00 AM to 6:00PM.

**Sungai-Kolok Border Checkpoint**  
The southernmost town

of Thailand, linking business places and route to travel between Thailand and Malaysia. It has a comfortable standard size of bridge connecting the road between the two countries and close to Sungai-Kolok train station, approximately 1 kilometer. Inside the town, there are various places of accommodation that includes all the comfortable amenities to provide tourists to rest and to buy a variety of goods with an inexpensive price.

**Wat To Mo** is a royal temple that was built as an offering for His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen, which is located in Sukhirin District, a place for religious ceremonies and the center of faith for the people of Tambon Phukhaotong. Some part in the temple area was arranged a Livelihood Center (Support Museum) to promote occupation and training of handmade products to a group of housewives such as silk weaving, carvings and basketry in the Li Pao area. It is also



where the shrine of the To Mo goddess is located, a place of respect and faith for both Thai-Chinese people and citizens of Malaysia and Singapore. Before To Mo goddess was placed in this temple, but later, it was called upon to enshrine at the Sungai-Kolok district. Further at the back of the temple around 3 kilometers, is a peaceful place with huge trees and the awesome To Mo Waterfall that flows in four (4) different levels. Therefore, it is one of the famous places to relax and enjoy the scenery.

**Telok manoh Mosque** or Wadi Al-Hussein Mosque is far from Pa Cho District around 4 kilometers. Travelling along the highway of Pattani-Narathiwat, turn right to the Mosque before reaching the district. Hopea Wood was used to build this place, fastened by wooden bolt instead of nails or bolts & screws that withstand to exist for more than 300 years. It features Thai traditional patterned combines with Chinese-Malay art styles. It is

probably constructed on Hijrah era on 1044 or the Buddhist era on 2167. It is well renowned by the two old adjacent buildings, the first one has three overlap levels of roof as well as the style of the top roof is a Chinese dome covered by ceramic tiles, while the second building is pedestal shape cushion gable, around the base is a beautiful and various design of drilled carvings of a stem vine. Presently, it is still function as a place for religious ceremonies.

Based from the hearsays and records regarding the Mosque, it is believed that this Telok manoh, before, is the new village for the religious teacher (teach at Sanor Village / Sanoryanyar) named Wan Hussein or Said Hussein and the people he brought in to migrate and to take refuge during the time

that Pattani was driven out by Thai armies. The governor of Pattani, who's also a follower, organized and settled on this place, which currently became a big community.

**Luang Po Daeng Temple** in Wat Choeng Khao, which is far from the office of Bacho district approximately 18 km. It is an ancient place of dharma, a symbol of the nation and a place of respect and faith of the people. Since, the past abbot of this temple Luang Po Dang Dhammachoto died from old age. However, in spite of it, the body did not decomposed and turns into a rock. The people, therefore, lay his body inside a glass coffin and place it inside Wat Luang Po Daeng. Nowadays, it is one the popular place for tourists and devotees of both Thai and foreign visitor to admire and worship.



## Touring inside the City of Narathiwat

**A Royal Pavilion beside the Ta Phraya Sai Dam** is a place for the people of Narathiwat to relax and to exercise, located on Phu Pa Pakdee road beside Bang Nara river. In the vicinity is the royal pavilion of His Majesty the King, Her Majesty the Queen, and the royal family when they come and stay on vacation to watch the yearly event racing of Korlae boat, Yao boat, and Yokong boat in the festival of "Narathiwat's Produce speciality".



**The Central Mosque of Narathiwat Province** located on Pichitbunrung road before reaching Narathat beach. It is a central of faith and the place for performing religious ceremonies of the Muslim Thais. The building was built on 1981 and it has three-floor with a magnificent roof dome design similar to a Mosque and the summit of the huge tower is decorated by arts. Not so far from this place, is a resident community of fisherman, which is also used as a stopover of boats in Bang Nara River. On morning time, you could see the fisherman's way of life and the fascination of the multi-colored Korlae boats running back and forth in the river.

**Phra Buddha Taksin Mingmongkol** located from the city approximately 9 km. further alongside the road of Narathiwat-



Rangae, in the vicinity there's a magnificent statue and it is the tallest Buddha image on a sitting position style giving-blessing to the southern part region. The frontage lap wide is 17 meters by 24 meters high and was built to follow the style of Buddha-Sil (art), a lineage craftsman from southern India (similar to Kanomtom), made of a reinforced concrete, while golden mosaic tiles was used to decorate the whole body, which was completed on 22nd of June, 1966. Moreover, the area is over of 56.3 acres of Khao Kong Buddha Park; including other interesting building such as the Buddha Upasatha style of elephant crouch offering a lotus and an overturn bell position of the Siri Maha Maya Chatiya.



### **Taksin Ratchaniwet Palace**

located far from the city around 8 km., along the road of Narathiwat-Tak Bai. The palace covers an area of 119 acres from the foot of Tanyong Mountain to the coastline. It was built on February 1973 to be the residential place for His Majesty the King, Her Majesty the Queen, and the Royal Family, when they stay at the southern part from August - October of every year. The building was made of bricks and plastered by modern Pun-yah (Thai pattern of construction of a common house without gable), a popular style of the southern part. The building was divided into; the upper part, which the Royal family stays and the place of His Majesty Principal private secretary; and the lower part is for the royal page (an officer of a royal household). In the area, it has experimental flowerbed plot to cultivates ornamental and flowering plants including birdcages to raise a variety of pheasant, birds and wild animals; surrounded by wild and rare plants of the southern part as well as the peace and beautiful huge trees. The lower area is arranged to be a Livelihood Center (or A Support Museum for Promotion of Extra Occupation and Related Techniques), a place to produce and sell ceramic and pottery products, to generate income and develop the handicraft skills of the local people.

The palace is open for public viewing daily from 9:00am-4:00pm, until before two months prior to the arrival of the Royal family (Period closed: 2-months ahead of arrival).

### **Pikun Thong Development**

**Study Center** is further away from Thaksin Ratchaniwet Palace, approximately 2 km. The center is divided into building office, experimental flowerbed plots and the laboratory research plot in the area of Pa Phru (the peat swamp forest). His Majesty the King proclamation was to established and manage the development, studies and experiments of the soil problem. Moreover, it is also to support and development of the local people to produce and sell handicrafts made from Bulrush and Pa-Nan (Lum-Jiek) plants.



**Ban Thon Village** is the place where they produce locally handicraft souvenirs, which are the symbols of Nara city. It is far from the town around 16 kilometers from Narathiwat-Ban Thon road. The famous souvenir is the Korlae model boat; moreover, in the village there is also a center that produces and sells local Arts and Crafts, handmade gifts such as bulrush mats.

**Chulabhorn Camp** is a fascinating place to relax in Narathiwat province. Having an area wider than 635 acres including a nine (9) hole Golf Course that opens daily for all golfers, a 10-lane shooting range that opens from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm, and a shrine and image of Krom Luang Chomporn Kate Udomsak, a place of respect and faith for the people. Furthermore, there is the beach of Chulabhorn camp, a famous place for relaxing having a clean and beautiful white sand beach and it is also the place where His Majesty the King and the royal prince participated in training exercise to land ashore an army of marine soldiers in "Thaksin-12" on the 2nd August 1969. At present time the amphibious vehicle that was used and left behind is still on displayed at the front beach side of the Romklow Club.

## Touring the Beach of the Seaside City

**Ku Bu Fisherman Village** Tak Bai District, located far from the city approximately 20 kilometers. Here the beach spans along over 25 kilometers, a tranquil place shaded by the pine trees along the way. There are small shops selling souvenirs such as Batik clothes, headscarfs, including fresh seafood caught by the fisherman with reasonable price.

**Ko Yao** located near to the Tak Bai district office around 1 kilometer. It has a wooden bridge around 500 meters long linking the land and Ko Yao Island. The island shape is long and narrow, covered by nine kilometers of long of pristine beaches with crystal clear seawater of the Gulf of Thailand and shaded by number of coconut trees along the beach.

**Sadej Beach** from Tak Bai District head straight to Tak Bai-Taba road around 4 kilometers further, then turn left and head straight again for about 500 meters, it boast a public park for relaxing, long beaches, pavilions, and beautiful parks. Nearby area are restaurants and hotels to service tourists.

**Ao Manao** Forest Park was established in respond to the royal declaration promoting tourism for the H.R.H Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn (Somdej Phra Tep Rattana). It was proclaimed to be a national park on the 21st of April 1993. This exclusive conservation

national park of Tan Yong forest is far from the city, heading to Narathiwat-Tak Bai road, then go straight at the junction for around 3 kilometers, the area is appealing to take a rest with a clean white sand beaches with varying pile of big and small rocks encircling alongside the shore of the Gulf of Thailand. While on the top of the hill allow you to view wider beautiful scenery. In the palace area, there is the small waterfall with different flow level, wonderful on the rainy season. In this area, of Ao Manao and Khoa Tan Yong, it had a small road for trekking to explore the beauty of the nature. All roads had information about the forest. And last is the sea plant of the genus Cycas, which is a distinguished flora that could only be found on the shore of this area.



## The Map of Narathiwat Province

Narathiwat province located at the southernmost of the southern part of Thailand. The government divided the area into 13 districts that comprises of Muang, Tak Bai, Sungai-Kolok, Sungai Padi, Wang, Sukhirin, Chanae, Si Sakhon, Ruso, Rangae, Bacho, Yi-Ngo, and Cho Ai Rong.

The North	adjoins Pattani Province
The South	adjoins Malaysia
The East	adjoins the Gulf of Thailand and Malaysia
The West	adjoins Yala Province

The majority of the people are Muslim. And they are still taught and use the local Malay language; common livelihood is plantation of the Para rubber, coconuts and garden fruits as a major income.

The distances from Muang District to the other districts

Yi-Ngo	12 kilometers
Rangae	22 kilometers
Bacho	28 kilometers
Tak Bai	33 kilometers
Ruso	47 kilometers
Sungai Padi	49 kilometers
Chanae	50 kilometers
Si Sakhon	64 kilometers
Sungai-Kolok	66 kilometers
Wang	83 kilometers
Sukhirin	103 kilometers

The distances from Narathiwat to the near-by provinces

Pattani	92 kilometers
Yala	128 kilometers
Songkhla	194 kilometers





## Touring the Nature and Waterfalls of the Southern Part

**Gold Mine Ban To Mo** In the past, Sukhirin district was a gold mine. It was under a concession of a French group to commence gold exploration in earlier year before 1931. After the Indo-China war ended, the Thai government replaced the French and continued the activity. In the present day, extracting gold had ceased its operation but leaving behind tunnels, office buildings and officers lodging facilities. The area is surrounded by high mountains with tropical rain forests and remains to be a natural beauty. There's also a demonstration of sifting gold by the natives, where you could see real gold. It also has accommodation facilities to service tourist up to 25-30 persons.

**Ban Sakai** At Sukhirin District. There are still indigenous people in the virgin forest of Malaysia, who called themselves as Assari, an ethnic group of people. Inhabits and roam free the wild and far virgin forest using the nature's abundance to nourish them. Food supply for a group of 7-10 families in an area last only for a month and would have to move at the border of Thailand and Malaysia where food is plentiful. The prominent unique features of Sakai are curly hair, oily black skin color, skillful on herbal drugs, expert in darts as a weapon to defend themselves and to hunt for food.

**Chat Warin Waterfall** or "Ipayong" as the local language says, which means the sprawl umbrella waterfall. It is far from the Sungai Padi district office around 6 kilometers. It originates from the Forest of Kala Kiri Mountain, beautiful as water flows throughout the year. It is surrounded by original rare forest plants with lots of huge trees shading all the area, especially on the peak of the mountain, where you could find Lee-pa plants or Bang-soon palms; that came from the family of palmae, which are rarely found in the world.

**The Wild Plants Garden Center,**

**the Great Queen 60 years** Ban Kok Rai Yai located further from the Sungai Padi district office around 15 kilometers, there are various interesting types of plants organized by the groups to cover the area over 119 acres of either flowering and ornamental plants or rare wild plants in flowerbed plots. It also offers experts to study high-breed plants, organized exhibition shows, agricultural techniques fair and sources of flowering and ornamental plants that includes giving of purebred plants to the agriculturist and public.

**Isateer Waterfall** Cho Ai Rong District. It is one kilometer away from the train station of Isateer village. A popular relaxing place of the neighboring people both on weekends and during festival, since it has delightful water that flows along the big and small rocks that develop into countless basins for people to play and submerged amid the serenity of trees.

**Chula Bhorn Development Village 5** Established on 1992 under the project of recovering the environment and the people lives who suffered from the flood on the southern part. It is the announcement of H.R.H. Princess Chulabhorn, the president of Chulabhorn Research Institute, who approved and allow the 100 poor affected families to stay and organize the place to develop each four acres of land per family to promote planting of fruits such as Longkong, and Durian simultaneously preserving the natural and the environment in the form of multiple cropping agriculture such as planting of vegetables, local orchids breeding nursery center of Southeast Asia. Therefore, it became a place for tours and studies for individual developer and the general tourists.

**Rafting Iboetae Adventure** The large stream in Chanae District, the distance from Chanae to the rafting point of

Iboetae village is approximately 20 kilometers. The tourists would enjoy from the water as it flows strongly crashing or trickling in passing through several group of rocks, or admire the beautiful view of the forest on both sides of the river while some flow line of water are slow-moving passing them. After rafting, tourists may spend the night in tents both in the area beside the river, or the in village resident area, or they could even stay inside the house with the families arranged by people in the vicinity.

**Sabeng Waterfall** is located further from the Yi-Ngo district office through Ye-Ngo-Maruebo road around 8 kilometers. The waterfall is wonderful, since the water line falls down passing on each level of rocks surrounded by the wild plants and various grooves such as rambutan, durian and mangosteen. Beyond the waterfall, it is a dam for irrigation purposes, which was built by a royal decree. The place was arranged for relaxation that most tourists visit these two places during fruit season.

**Phru Sadej Waterfall** located further from the Ye-Ngo district office, heading to Narathiwat-Bacho road around 9 kilometers. The waterfall was bordered by the dam, which was built by the Department of Irrigation. Nevertheless, the surrounding beautiful natural sceneries would be pleasant to relax.

**Sri Tanyong Waterfall**  
The newly discovered waterfall in Ton Yong village of Ruso District. It is far from the city approximately 58 kilometers through the highway, then turn at the junction and continue the Tarao-Kotabaru road around 2 kilometers. It is a natural place with water droppings from the cliff of more than 100 meters down amongst the natural forest.

**Iguedor Waterfall** Located at Takhean Tondeaw village, which is far from the Si Sakhon district office around 15 kilometers. It has seven (7) levels of waterfall, dropping down on the

different level of cliffs, amongst the complete riches forest. It is a home for birds and various wild animals.

### **Herbal Garden for Self-Reliance Settlement of Si Sakhon**

It is far from the Si Sa Khon district approximately 12 kilometers. And is the center to propagate the local crops and herbal plants for over 750 types. It has a shady area from the big and small trees, well balanced with herbal land plots. Therefore, it is one of the interesting and enjoying places to relax.

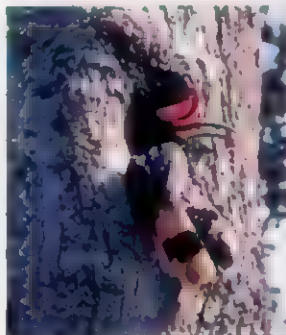


## Jungle Adventure

### Bala-Hala Wildlife Sanctuary

**Bala-Hala** is a jungle believed to be one of the most rich in natural wildlife in Thailand. It is home of the wild and rare animals such as Gra-soo (asiatic two-horned rhinoceros), Sia-mung or the big black gibbon that was recently discovered in Thailand, rare hornbill with rhinoceros head or Chon-hin bird. It is also the central place of the various rare plants like palm Bang-soon, which is the utmost wild plant of Hala-Bala Jungle, including Dongmahasdam, an ancient fern with a big stem as a plant as well as the several rare animals that are not yet discovered. It was announced officially to establish this place on the year of 1996 covering the forest area of San Kala Kiri Mountain, which is a natural environment that shares border between Thailand and Malaysia, it is approximately 107,431 acres that comprises of two (2) areas, which is Hala Jungle covering the area of Batong district of Yala Province, Chanae district of Narathiwat province and; Bala Jungle covering the area of Wang and Sukhirin district of Narathiwat province.

Since, it is incredibly wealth in natural resources, the Bala-Hala Jungle, therefore, suitable for activities for eco-tourism and exploring the natural such as observing birds, butterflies and studying plants. The strategic route number 4062 is used for travelling the place, ■ good asphalt that pass through the central of the Jungle, starting from Buketa village of Wang district, passing the forest of Bala side and ends at Phu Khao Thong village of Sukhirin district for a total distance of 18 kilometers. It is a comfortable route to explore the nature and it is not too far from Sungai Kolok district, thus, the round-trip of travelling is possible within one day. Most of the tourists visit the Sirindhorn waterfall, as the route is very convenient as well as you could see several rare plants besides the waterfall.



Travelling from Had Yai, tourist could head to Road No. 43 passing through Pattani province, then head to highway no. 42 until reaching Bacho district of Narathiwat province, then

proceed to highway no. 4055 and 4056 passing Sungai Padi district, and cross to the highway no. 4057 to Wang district heading straight to reach Bugeta village. Before reaching the border area, a signboard direction is placed for Hala-Bala Wildlife Sanctuary and Sirindhorn Waterfall; turn right to highway no. 4062. The tourists could conveniently use the exclusive accommodation to stay in the district of Sungai Kolok. However, if the tourist plans to do other activities in the Jungle area, it must submit a request letter before to the Hala-Bala Wildlife Sanctuary office at P.O. Box 3, Wang district, Narathiwat Province 96160.

The guesthouse at the foot of the Jungle has organized activities of the eco-trekking and other interesting various activities. The tourists could easily get in touch at Ban Wang Guesthouse, Sukhaphiban Road, Soi 17, Wang district, with all the convenient facilities for a group of tourist of at least 4 persons. Otherwise they could contact Phukhao Thong Guesthouse, Ban Kamnan Juab, Tambon Phu Khao Thong, also for a group of tourists of at least 4 persons. For rental van and pick-up; contact Khun Nathini Wongpuwarak, Telephone number 0-1609-7012; and the Narathiwat Business and Leisure at Telephone number 0-7351-1027.

**Pa Phru Sirindhorn** It is humid-virgin forest in the swamp. It was claimed to be a Wildlife Sanctuary enhanced by Princess



▲ Hala-Bala Jungle

Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's prestige and to build the Phru Sirinthorn Nature Study & Research Center that conducts research concerning the natural ecology of Phru (peat) Forest covering an area of over 49,603.2 acres, the widest peat swamp forest in Thailand, and a center of complete natural ecological forest peat. It is a home to wild animals of more than 200 types and over 400 types of plants, which each type are very rare that only exist in the peat forest.

For the general tourists, at the research center area, there is a pre-arranged route to explore the natural scenery of Phru (peat) Forest covering a distance of 1,200 meters long, which is a wooden bridge elevated along and among the various wilding plants going through the center of the forest. Between the routes you will see the natural ecological system, diverse wild plants and wild animals that inhabit in the Phru forest. Walking around the route to explore the ecological system of Phru forest would

take around 30-45 minutes, which opens everyday from 08:00am till 4:30pm.

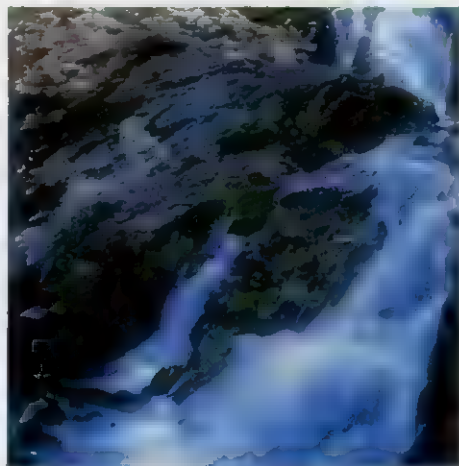
Since the research center is not far from the town of Sungai-Kolok as well as the Sungai-Kolok border checkpoint, which is the border town and the central trade area linking Thailand and Malaysia. In the town, therefore, there are numerous convenience facilities that provide services for the tourists and there are also sufficient cars for rent in Sungai-Kolok town. For tourists who brought their own vehicle could head straight to Sungai-Kolok-Tak Bai road, after reaching Chawanan junction for 3 kilometers, turn left and head straight again for around 5 kilometers to reach the research center.

#### **Budo Sungai Padi National Park**

A big forest covering a wide area of three (3) provinces that consists of Yala, Pattani, and Narathiwat. It is commonly known as the beautiful Ba Cho Waterfall believed to be as the most beautiful cascade in the southern part, and it is the original place to discover "Yan Daoe" or the golden leaves, an amazing plant with soft & clear velvet cover. Moreover,

it is also home of the wild rare animals such as Chonhin bird, which is one of the seven (7) types of hornbills birds that inhabits this place, excluding the others captivating rare wild plants.

Since, the forest is rich various natural resources, therefore, it is remarkably suitable for activities of exploring the natural such as observing birds. These rare birds are only found in the southern forest such as Chonhin bird, hornbill birds with a rhinoceros-head, and various types of beautiful birds. A forest suitable to explore the wilding plants, since it is the amalgamation ground among all different types of plants species both from the tropical Jungle and the Indo-China Jungle therefore, it is one of the place that formed various wild plants and animals in Thailand.



The journey, the office of National Park and Ba Cho Waterfall is located nearby to each other beside the road of Pattani-Narathiwat. Turning at Bacho, then straight to the office of the Park around 2 kilometers.

**Si Po Waterfall Forest Park** Rangae District. It is a forest park with gorgeous waterfall of Si Po. It originated from the forest of the Si Po Mountain that lies along reaching Si Sakhon and Chanae district. It consists of nine different levels with beautiful lines of water flowing down to the various shape of the cliff on each level. His Majesty the King visited Si Po Waterfall on 1976. Afterwards on 1988, the government established the project to develop the Si Po Waterfall Forest Park for a special commemoration on the occasion of the Majesty's silver jubilee celebration.

From the forest park passing Si Po village about 1 kilometer, you will find Longkong Si Po or Ton Yong Mut Longkong, which grows over 130 years. The Si Po village believed: it is the original source of Longkong having the most sweetest and delicious taste in Thailand. There are Thais and foreigners who always visit the place, whether a gardener, forestry personnel and tourists.

## Local stage plays and delightful color of traditional entertainment

**Silat** A martial art technique of self-defense that was continued for a long time by Thai-Muslim. The contestants are allowed to use of both hands similar to Kung Fu or Thai boxing. The game of Si-La will begin by paying homage to their teachers by Vandana (a joined hands gesture to salute the teacher). This habitual practice is called "wai khru" in Thai, which means rehearsing the skills of the fighter one at a time. The fighter would recite the verses "requesting calmness for the competitor, to be dear to neighbors, to admire the watcher". The match fight consists of 2 fighters at a time. It emphasize on the beautiful dress as the fighter are wearing shirt with short sleeves, colorful sarong covered the long sleeves pants inside, gird to the waist with cloths or belt buckle for the sarong to fit, tucking a Kris at the waist, and a turban on the head. The Si-La was divided into two types comprise of the Si-La Yatoo (Tok) is the art of fighting of attacking and defending mode, which if one could not defend will lose. Mostly, it will be use to compete on each other, and the Si-La (Rom) is a Si-La that uses a Kris to dance before the match begins. All fights would be play on auspicious occasion such as soo-nut (ceremony of circumcision) or the wedding ceremony.

**Ma-no-rah** (fabulous nymph in Thai folklore stories) is also the playing art similar to Mayong. One group of Ma-no-rah comprise of more than 10 performers as they play the role of the leading man, the leading lady, and the clown. Prior to the play, there will be a musical show by the combination of the musical instruments such as Drum, Gong, Mong, Tara, Krup (a wooden rhythm instrument). Nowadays, it is also mixed with oriental music instrument such as guitar and a set of drums.

**Dikir Hulu** It similar to Lamtad of the central area. Performers are singing in groups responding to other groups or singing individually by the use of sagacity "thinking on words to begin and to response. One group of Hulu will have pair of singers of around 10 people, while permanent group singers consists of 2-3 members. The pair of singers would be seated in circle, singing and clapping their hands together with the shaking of the body to harmonize with the music rhythm of Rum-ma-nah (one-faced round and short drum), Gong, Mong, and Sag. Previously, Hulu actors are wearing sarong and a round neck blouse; however, nowadays it changed to a western style dress.

**Ta-loong** (shadow play) it is the famous entertainment show for a long period of time in Narathiwat, Yala and Pattani area. Ta-loong show consists of a leading man, leading lady, and a clown, who has I-Thang to be the star performer similar to Ta-loong of Malay. A movie house to be use for the play would have to construct a hut around 1-15 meters above from the ground. The actor will display musical instrument such as a pair of small drum, flute, Tub, Mong, Ching (small cup-shape cymbals), and Gong. Nowadays, western musical instrument are also used to mix with the musical instruments of Ta-loong.

**Gin-Neau Tradition** What Muslim calls it "Makae Puloe". It is practiced and continued for a long time during the month of 10 and 1 of the Hegira calendar or the month of June and July in Thai. Gin-Neau is mostly preferred to arrange in a wedding ceremony or the Soo-nut (or Masoyawi / the ceremony of circumcision). The host would then invite cousins, friends to have a feast in the ceremony that starts at 08:00am till 10:00pm. After dinner, guest would have to offer money to the host as a gift and to assist for organized ceremony.

**Accept Sil Od (Lent)** The Thai-Muslim and the general public who respect the tradition would begin to take the Lent on the month of Ramadan. The one who take in the Lent must be over 10 years old, taking it strictly for 30 consecutive days from sunrise to sunset. Water and food is prohibited, while controlling their mind that includes respect to the religious Sila (observe precepts). After completing the Lent, they will not work for at least 1 day to meet their cousins, as it is a rest day or a holiday of the year.

## Lodging Facilities

### Lodging Facilities

**In the City** Tan Yong: Sopapisai Road, Telephone 0-7351-1477; Pacific: Worakampit Road, Telephone 0-7351-1076, 0-7351-1259; Royal Princess: Pichitbomrung Road, Telephone 0-7351-5041-50; Ao Manao Resort: Tambon Kaluwonaeu, Telephone 0-7351-3640; Panan Resort: Narathiwat-Tak Bai Road, Telephone 0-7351-4749.

**Tak Bai District** Taba Braza: Tak Bai Road Telephone 0-7358-1232-4; Tak Bai Lagoon Resort: Tambon Jehae, Telephone 0-7358-1478.

**Sungai-Kolok District** Genting: Asia 18 Road, Telephone 0-7361-3231-40; Grand Garden: Pracha-Wiwat Road, Soi 3, Telephone 0-7361-3600-5, 0-7361-3501-4; City: Saratwong Road, Telephone 0-7361-3521; Thara Regent: Charoen Keth Road, Soi 3, Telephone 0-7361-1401, 0-7361-1801; Mareena: Charoen Keth Road, Soi 3, Telephone 0-7361-3881-5; Merlin: Charoen Keth Road, Telephone 0-7361-1003, 0-7361-1431; Plaza: Pathomthed Road, Telephone 0-7361-1875-6, 0-7361-3403; Venise Palace: Choenmarkara Road, Telephone 0-7361-1200, 0-7361-3700-9; Inter-Tower: Prachawiwat Road, Telephone 0-7361-2700-4.

### Restaurants

**In the City** Mong Korn Thong: Phupapakdee Road, beside BangNara River, Telephone 0-7351-1835; Rimnam Food Garden: Narathiwat-Tak Bai Road, Telephone 0-7351-1559; Ton Yong Restaurant, inside Ton Yong Hotel: Sopapisai Road, Telephone 0-7351-1447; Thaksin Restaurant, inside Royal Princess Hotel: Phichit Bomrung Road, Telephone 0-7351-5041; Panan Restaurant, in Panan Resort: Narathiwat-Tak Bai Road, Telephone 0-7351-4749; Kasaew Food Garden: Narathiwat-Rangai Road, Telephone 0-1478-8167; Da Restaurant: Narathiwat-Tak Bai Road, Telephone 0-1990-6732; Mutherera: Wichitchaiboon Road, Telephone 0-7351-2090; JeSani Shop: Sopapisai Road, Telephone 0-7351-1318.

**Tak Bai District** Nad Pob Yong Thong: Narathiwat-Tak Bai Road, Telephone 0-7358-1141; Reoan Pae in the area of PuYu irrigation project, Tambon Pron, Telephone 0-1969-0569; Tak Bai Lagoon: Tak Bai-Narathiwat Road, Telephone 0-7358-1478.

**Sungai-Kolok District** Bugmui Restaurant: Charoenkhet Road, Soi 3, Telephone 0-7361-1129; Ros Siam: Cheun Manka Road, Telephone 0-7361-1360; Chatwarin Restaurant, inside Genting Hotel: Asia Road, Telephone 0-7361-2231; Sudkhirin Restaurant, inside Grand Garden Hotel: Prachawiwat Road, Soi 3, Telephone 0-7361-1219; Meridien Restaurant, inside Marina Hotel, Charoenkhet Road, Soi 3, Telephone 0-7361-3881; Rin Come Restaurant, inside Venice Palace Hotel: Cheun Manka Road, Telephone 61-1200; Bakudtae: Prachawiwat Road, Soi 3, Telephone 0-7361-1036; Mark Dang: Wongwiwat Road, Telephone 0-7361-1218; Romsai 1: Sai Thong 2 Road, Telephone 0-7361-3814; Tumleung Thong: Tespatom Road, Soi 2, Telephone 0-7361-5744.

Romli Thai-Muslim Food: Charoenkhet Road, Soi 3, Telephone 0-7361-2868; Ibrahim: Busayapan Road, Telephone 0-7361-1686; Osman: Worakamin Road, Telephone 0-7361-1561.

**Souvenir Shop** Pikun Thong Development Study Center: Telephone 0-7351-3891. The shop is selling ceramics and art crafts at Taksin Ratchaniwet Palace.

## Travelling Information

Narathiwat is a city located at the southernmost of Thailand. Its distance from Bangkok is approximately 1,149 kilometers. The famous and convenient way to travel is by train; however by plane is much faster.

**Private Cars** : from Bangkok head off to Highway No. 4, passing Prachuab Kirikhan and Chumpon then head to Highway No. 41 for Had Yai, then afterward take the Highway No. 42, end route to Pattani then Narathiwat.

**Public Bus** : from Sai Tai Mai (new southern) Bus Station, there are air condition buses to Narathiwat everyday, V.I.P. buses (24 seating) depart at 5:30 pm, First Class air condition leaves at 7:00 pm, Second Class air condition bus leaves at 3:30 pm. Telephone 0-2435-1200; Narathiwat Bust Station is 0-7551-1845.

**Trains** : from Hua Lam Pong, the train for Bangkok-Narathiwat-Sungai-Kolok leaves daily. Roundtrip; Rapid train at 12:25 am, Special Express (Thaksin) at 2:45 pm, International Special Express at 2:00 pm; Local train; for Had Yai-Sungai Kolok departs at 6:45, 9:35 am, for Yala-Sungai Kolok departs at 6:00 am; Nakhon Sri Thammarat at 6:00 am; Surat Thani-Sungai Kolok at 6:15 am; Rapid train for Bangkok-Nakhon Sri Thammarat at 5:35 pm; Rapid Car for Bangkok-Yala at 3:50 pm.

**Roundtrip** : International Special Express at 5:00 pm, Rapid Car Sungai-Kolok at 11:00 am, Special Express (Thaksin) at 2:05 pm, Rapid Car Nakhon Sri Thammarat at 12:00 noon, Express at 2:00 pm, Special Express Yala at 2:45 pm, Surat Thani at 10:25 am, Local Car Sungai-Kolok to Had Yai at 1:15 pm, 1:50 pm.

For more information, please search the Thailand Train Office website at **HYPERLINK** "<http://www.srt.motc.go.th/>"

<http://www.srt.motc.go.th/>

Telephone : 0-22237010, 02223-7020.

Domestic flight: Thai Airways Company

Ltd. Bangkok-Phuket-Narathiwat; 1 flight/day at 07:00 am. Prices: Economy class priced is 2,950 Baht, and Business class price is 3,750 Baht, Telephone 0-2628-2000.

**Remark**: Airfare and flight schedule are subject to change, please check customer service before departure.

### Important Telephone Numbers

Tourism Authority of Thailand, Southern Office: Region 3 (Lower South) Narathiwat-Tak Bai Road, Muang District, Narathiwat, Telephone: 0-7351-6144

#### Tourist Information Service Center

Telephone : 0-7361-2126

#### Tourist Police

Telephone : 0-7361-2008

#### Custom Police Checkpoint

Telephone : 0-7361-1368

#### Phuthorn Police Station

Telephone : 0-7351-1236 or 191

#### Transportation Company Limited

Telephone : 0-7351-1845

#### Narathiwat Bus Terminal

Telephone : 0-7351-1845

#### Sungai Kolok Bus Terminal

Telephone : 0-7361-2045

#### Sungai Kolok Train Station

Telephone : 0-7361-1162,

Telephone : 0-7361-4060

#### Thai Airways Company Limited

Telephone : 0-7351-1161

#### Highway Police

Telephone : 0-7351-1476

#### Narathiwat Hospital

Telephone : 0-7351-1476



**TOURISM AUTHORITY OF THAILAND, SOUTHERN OFFICE : REGION 3**

102/3 Narathiwat Tak Bai Road, Moo 2 Tambon Kaluwo Nuea, Mung, Narathiwat 96000

Tel. 0-7351-6144, 0-7352-2411 Fax: 0-7352-2412 E-mail address : tatnara@cscoms.com